

NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Jury Charges Springfield Man with Drug Offense

Springfield, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today charged a Springfield, Illinois man with possession with intent to distribute five or more grams of crack cocaine.

The indictment charges Spencer Harris, age 37, of 1844 South 14th Street, Springfield, Illinois, with possession of crack cocaine on or about June 29, 2006. Harris remains in federal custody following his arrest on July 7, 2006, on a criminal complaint filed June 30, 2006.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for the offense is a minimum five years in prison up to 40 years imprisonment; if a defendant has a prior drug conviction, the statutory penalty is a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia A. McInerney is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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